

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of Application No. 09/433,558, and is being filed to obtain consideration of the claims most recently presented in the parent application and to obtain the benefits afforded by the AIPA.

Claims 1 to 16, 22 and 24 have been amended, Claims 17 to 21, 23 and 25 have been canceled, and Claims 26 to 29 have been added in the foregoing amendment to bring the claims into correspondence with those presented in the Amendment After Final rejection filed on September 9, 2003, in the parent application. In this regard, the Advisory Action issued in the parent application on October 17, 2003, contended that the amendments to Claims 10, 22 and 24 lacked support in the original disclosure. Applicant submits that page 26, line 24, to page 28, line 1, and in particular, page 27, lines 8 to 18, is believed to provide adequate support for the claimed features of the invention.

Entry of the foregoing amendment and passage to allowance are respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Publication No. 2002/0136456
U.S. Patent No. 4,962,465
U.S. Patent No. 5,150,108
U.S. Patent No. 5,513,278
U.S. Patent No. 5,579,416
U.S. Patent No. 5,592,565
U.S. Patent No. 5,889,897
U.S. Patent No. 5,946,001
U.S. Patent No. 6,272,238
U.S. Patent No. 6,337,924

Japan 61-107876
Japan 2-96885
Japan 2-289066
Japan 3-103996
Japan 8-30717

U.S. Application No. 09/287,312, which was cited in parent U.S.

Application No. 09/433,558, was published as U.S. Publication No. 2002/0136456. The remaining documents listed above also were cited in parent U.S. Application No. 09/433,558, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the Patent and Trademark Office files for review of these documents. See MPEP § 609. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the attached form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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